Schemes for gender equality and girl welfare

†879. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the success of Government schemes for abolition of gender ratio disparity and girl welfare is limited to advertisements only;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government have not been able to implement even a single scheme in respect of the above;

(c) if so, the details of achievements, State-wise;

(d) whether Government are considering formulating of a law for providing concession to girls in all types of educational institutes; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) In the Annual Plan 2007-08 for Ministry of Women and Child Development, the scheme of Conditional Cash Transfer for the survival and development of the girl child has been included with an outlay of Rs. 15 crores. A comprehensive 'Integrated Child Protection Scheme' has also been included in the Annual Plan 2007-08 with an outlay of Rs. 95 crore. This includes a component of Palna, which envisages setting up of Cradle Baby Reception Centres.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Indecent advertisements depicting women

†880. SHRI JAI PARKASH AGGARWAL: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been an increase in the provocative advertisements depicting women in indecent manner;

(b) if so, whether the National Commission for Women has recommended amendment in the Indecent Representation of Women (Prohibition) Act, 1986;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the action taken by Government in this regard, so far; and

(e) the action taken by Government to check infringement of the Act?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) As per the data relating to crime against women maintained by the National Crime Records Bureau, Ministry of Home Affairs, the following number of cases have been reported in the country under the Indecent Representation of Women (Prohibition) Act, 1986.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Year	No. of cases reported
2003	1043
2004	1378
2005	2917

(b) to (d) The proposal to amend the Indecent Representation of Women (Prohibition) Act, 1986 on the basis of recommendations made by the National Commission for Women (NCW) is under the consideration of the Ministry of Women and Child Development. The proposal includes amendments in the definition of the terms 'indecent representation of women' and 'advertisement' and to increase the penalty for offences under the Act.

(e) Section 3 of the Indecent Representation of Women (Prohibition) Act, 1986 prohibits advertisements containing indecent representation of women. In terms of Section 6 of the Act, contravention of the provisions of section 3 of the Act shall be punishable with imprisonment and fine: Section 5 of the Act empowers State Governments to authorize Gazetted Officers, *inter-alia*, to carry out search and seize documents containing indecent representation of women.

'Public order' and 'police' are State subjects and as such prevention, detection and investigation etc. of cases relating to atrocities against women, including violation of the Indecent Representation of Women (Prohibition)' Act, 1986, is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments. The Government of India has been advising the State Governments from time to time to take necessary measures to prevent crimes against women and other weaker sections of the society.

Government employee status to anganwadi workers

881. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that anganwadi workers are demanding that they may be treated as Government employees and granted pay and allowances and other benefits accordingly; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Anganwadi Workers have been demanding, *inter-alia*, the status of Government employees with consequential benefits. Other demands of Anganwadi Workers include enhancement of honorarium, linkage of remuneration with Consumer Price Index, Lump Sum ex-gratia benefit on retirement and extension of Social Security benefits like Provident Funds, Pension etc.,

With a view to consider their demands, Government of India constituted a Review Committee for examining current levels of honorarium and related issues of Anganwadi Workers and Helpers. The Report of the Review Committee is under consideration of the Government.